

VICTORIA BARELY ALIVE

Family Summoned to the Bedside in Osborne House at 3 o'Clock This Morning.

Last Night There Was a Serious Change, Verging on Final Collapse, and Hope Was Abandoned a Few Hours Later.

IN A COMATOSE CONDITION AT 8 A. M.

London Momentarily Expecting Announcement of Her Majesty's Death.

Prince of Wales and the German Emperor Hastening to the Isle of Wight—Incidents of the Kaiser's Arrival—Sunday Scenes.

LONDON, Jan. 21, 8 a. m.—Queen Victoria is believed to be near her end. Last evening her Majesty's condition became serious and she was thought to be dying. This morning at 3 o'clock all members of the royal family were summoned. She was then in a comatose condition. Following are the latest bulletins from Cowes, Isle of Wight:

"5:15 a. m.—The members of the royal family are still gathered in a room adjoining the Queen's bed chamber. Her Majesty is unconscious, and the end is expected at any moment.

"7:50 a. m.—The Queen is still alive, but all hopes are gone."

EN ROUTE TO COWES.

LONDON, Jan. 21, 8:25 a. m.—A special train left the Victoria station for Osborne at 8 o'clock this morning with Emperor William, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and the Duke of Connaught aboard.

The Exchange Telegraph Company says the Queen was reported to be unconscious and sinking by the members of the royal family, who left London by special train for Osborne this morning.

STORY TOLD BY BULLETINS.

Dispatches from Cowes that indicated the end was approaching.

LONDON, Jan. 21, 6 a. m.—The following bulletins received since midnight indicate the alarming condition of Queen Victoria:

"Osborne House, Isle of Wight, Jan. 21, 12:15 a. m.—The official bulletin issued at midnight says that Queen Victoria's condition late last evening became more serious, with increasing weakness and diminished power of taking nourishment. The change verged on total collapse."

The Daily Chronicle received the following dispatch from Cowes, dated Jan. 21, 12:46 a. m.: "The Queen is reported to be sinking fast. The doctor of Whimingham was summoned at midnight, and he has just arrived in one of the Queen's carriages."

"Cowes, Jan. 21, 2 a. m.—Her Majesty's physicians hope she may rally by 5 o'clock this (Monday) morning. If she does it is expected she will live through the day. If she does not, all hope will be abandoned. Immediately on the occurrence of the Queen's collapse at about 10 o'clock last evening a message was sent to London summoning the Prince of Wales and Emperor William. The Prince of Wales was in such a condition of health that it was utterly impossible for him to leave London at that hour, but it is hoped he will start for Osborne House at 8 o'clock this morning."

The Press Association at London received the following dispatch from Cowes, dated 2 a. m.: "The Queen is in a comatose condition and is regarded as passing away."

"Cowes, Jan. 21, 3 a. m.—The worst is expected at any moment and the members of the royal family are now assembled in the Queen's bed chamber."

COWES, Jan. 21, 3:45 a. m.—Everybody is up in Osborne House and terrible anxiety pervades all quarters. If the Queen lives until Tuesday she will surprise her doctors,

who have been fearing that she will not be able to survive beyond 5 o'clock this morning. The latest bulletin, with its fateful news, was issued too late to become common knowledge hereabouts. The exclusive information of the Associated Press, obtained an hour earlier, is still less a matter of public knowledge."

COWES, Jan. 21, 4 a. m.—No official bulletin has been issued since midnight. Doubts are expressed as to whether the Prince of Wales and Emperor William will arrive here before the end. An enormous crowd of newspaper reporters and others, with carriages, bicycles and lanterns, has collected at the lodge gates, waiting in intense excitement to convey the news, momentarily expected, that the Queen has breathed her last."

AT OSBORNE HOUSE.

Few Details of the Queen's Illness Obtainable—A Touching Scene.

COWES, Isle of Wight, Jan. 21, midnight.—Yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock Drs. James Reid and R. Douglas Powell, the Queen's physicians, issued the following bulletin from Osborne House:

"Her Majesty's strength has been fairly maintained throughout the day. Although no fresh developments have now taken place the symptoms continue to cause anxiety."

Later in the evening grave rumors were in circulation as to the Queen's condition, and they were verified this morning. A collapse, or what the physicians feared was a collapse, occurred unexpectedly about 10 o'clock last night. Arrangements were hurriedly made to provide special telephonic and telegraphic facilities. Details were not obtainable at that hour; but it was asserted that the Queen's condition was chiefly due to a severe sinking spell and increase of paralytic symptoms. It is understood the physicians resorted to artificial methods to prolong life, such as are used only in cases of persons in extremis.

The Associated Press learns that the paralysis is chiefly evident in the face, one side of which appears to have lost all nerve and muscular power. At 6 o'clock last evening the malady had not reached the vital organs, although it had nearly caused an almost total loss of the power of speech. What was so much feared was that the brain might be attacked.

REFUSED TO SEE ANYONE.

Keenly sensitive of her affliction and appearance, the Queen has absolutely refused to see anyone but her nurses and doctors; and it is understood the Prince of Wales is the only exception to this rule and that his interview with the Queen lasted but a few moments. Hence, the exact nature of the malady is known only to a very few; and it is the royal wish that the public should not be informed of the existence of paralytic symptoms. Arrangements have been made with a local undertaker to have all the preliminaries to burial in case of an emergency.

At 12:35 a. m.—So far as her immediate safety is concerned, her Majesty's extreme weakness causes almost more alarm than the paralysis. Much difficulty has been experienced in administering nourishment for she appears quite unable to masticate. To this weakness are probably due the long spells of unconsciousness through which she has been passing although it is almost impossible to distinguish those from the insidious encroachments of paralysis. For more than a week the court attendants have had hard work to prevent her from sleeping at the wrong time. The last time she drove out the villagers were astounded to hear the clear treble of the son of the Princess of Battenberg trilling out popular songs from the royal carriage. The explanation is

that he was singing to keep his grandmother awake. Now and again she dozed, waking to tell the boy to continue his chant which to the uninitiated onlooker contained a world of pathos.

Emperor William, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York are all expected to arrive at Osborne House to-day (Monday). The only additional royal personage who arrived yesterday was the Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who arrived during the afternoon.

A SUNDAY INCIDENT.

Yesterday at Osborne, hedged around with intense secrecy, began with a touching scene. Amid the bright sunshine, in marked contrast to the gloomy skies of Saturday, there drove out from the palace grounds a carriage containing wreaths for the tomb of Prince Henry of Battenberg in the little church at Whimingham, about ten minutes ride from the royal residence. Then followed carriages containing the Princess of Wales, the Princess of Battenberg, Princess Louise and others, all dressed in the deepest black. The face of the Princess of Wales showed signs of the anxiety she was undergoing. The annual memorial service for Prince Henry, always a sad occasion, was more than usually sorrowful, for the shadow of a still greater bereavement was uppermost in all minds. The Princess of Wales and the Princess of Battenberg sobbed bitterly, and there was scarcely one of those royal heads bent in prayer that did not shake with a grief which could not be suppressed.

The departure of the Prince of Wales for London, shortly after 12 o'clock to meet Emperor William was quietly accomplished. The Queen had been informed of the Kaiser's coming and had signified her desire that the prince should go to meet him. Rather against his will, the man who for the moment was practically the King of England, obeyed his mother's wishes. It was rumored that the Queen wanted the Emperor to postpone his visit to Osborne House, as she did not wish to receive him in her present condition. Apparently in her lucid moments, she believed that she would be able to conquer the dread disease which had fastened itself upon her.

"HOW IS SHE?" THEY ASKED.

During the afternoon the long, hilly road to the palace grounds was crowded with people particularly young men and women arrayed in their Sunday garb, dotting the landscape with vivid patches of color. The local gentry, after church service, wrote their names in the visitors' book at the lodge, which contains no signature that would mean anything to the world outside of the Isle of Wight. Inquiries of importance all came by telegram and these were legion. Hundreds of people, all sorts and conditions of men, clergymen predominating, flocked to Cowes with telegrams asking for the latest news. A swarm of country people, among them correspondents from all quarters, mingled ceaselessly in the throng that converged towards the lodge gates. Their inquiries generally took the form of a timid "How is she?" addressed to the policeman who barred all comers, and an inquirer who had been answered would be immediately surrounded by others less bold who sought the news.

SCENES IN LONDON.

Day of Anxiety and Suspense—Arrival of the German Emperor.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—Throughout the United Kingdom yesterday was a Sunday of anxiety and suspense. No one in England, outside the circle of the court, knew the real condition of the Queen or the nature of her disease. The bulletins threw but little light on the universal question whether death was imminent. The London newspapers have not learned that her Majesty had suffered a shock of paralysis. Extra editions of the Sunday papers contained no information, but there were many of the official bulletins and they were eagerly sought. There were small gatherings in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House, as well as other centers where the bulletins were posted.

Crowds assembled to witness the arrival of Emperor William. Apart from such incidents, however, the customary quiet of a London Sunday was not disturbed. The most alarming reports of the day came in the form of telegrams from the princesses at Osborne House. The coming of Emperor William and the news that King Leopold was about starting for London inspired fears that death was at hand. On the other hand, the fact that the Prince of Wales was able to leave Osborne House had an encouraging effect.

Emperor William and the Duke of Connaught, who, with their suites, left Berlin at 6 o'clock last evening for England by special train, arrived at Finsbury at 8:20 o'clock this morning and embarked on a special steamer for Port Victoria. The government had arranged to send the fast cruiser Minerva to bring Emperor William, but he embarked on a mail packet before he learned of the plans, being accompanied by the Duke of Connaught. The steamer had a rough passage and on entering Sheerness harbor she went by the warships without any ceremonies. Admiral Kennedy and Count Von Mirbach, of the German embassy, received the Emperor and escorted him to a special waiting room.

THROUGH AT THE STATION.

Two hours before his Majesty's train was due in London people began to gather about Charing Cross station. The crowd included not only the usual hangers-on, but many fashionable people and hundreds of Germans, anxious to see the Emperor on his first appearance in London for years.

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LOVED BY ALL

NO OTHER SOVEREIGN WAS AS GRACIOUS AS QUEEN VICTORIA.

And None Ever So Endured Herself to the People of All Lands as Her Britannic Majesty.

COMMENT OF LONDON PAPERS

TRIBUTES TO THE WOMAN WHO DID SO MUCH FOR THE WORLD.

Her Long Reign Reviewed and Her Catholic Urbanity Pointed Out as an Example to Be Followed.

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S ACTION

CITED AS EVIDENCE OF THE SYMPATHY OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall's Impression of the Queen—Other Tributes to the Dying Ruler.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—The bulletin issued at midnight was too late to become known in London, except to a very few. If when the metropolis awakes the Queen is still living, her people must recognize that there is really no hope. This morning's newspapers have thrown off all pretense of any possibility of recovery and they sadly admit that the end may come at any moment. "While there is life there is hope," they say, and the Queen's constitution is marvellously strong; but it is idle to deny that the danger is extreme. Therefore the papers proceed to review her Majesty's long and illustrious reign as though she were no more and to dilate upon the wonderful influence she wielded in European politics for so many years.

"We all know," says the Daily Mail, "that there is danger of losing perhaps the greatest personal force of our times." The Daily News recalls the fact that even Bismarck, who detested feminine interference in politics, formed an estimate of the Queen, after a personal interview with her, which bordered on the idolatrous, and it adds: "This is one of the most striking tributes ever paid to a great character."

It is worthy of note that even to-day the London papers do not mention by even the most veiled allusion the fact that the Queen has had a paralytic stroke. Pages are devoted to the mournful scenes at Osborne House and to descriptions of occurrences here, as well as to telegrams from the colonies and foreign countries testifying to the sympathy everywhere evoked. According to the Daily Telegraph Emperor William, who has expressed a desire to be received at Osborne House, not as Emperor but as grandson, said on hearing of the Queen's illness: "I am my grandmother's eldest grandson, and my mother is unable from illness to hasten to her bedside."

PRAISE FOR THE KAISER.

A bright spot in the universal gloom was the unexpectedly prompt sympathy displayed by Emperor William in giving up important engagements to come to the deathbed of his grandmother. "This," says the Daily Mail, "is calculated to endear his name to every Englishman; and we feel at such an hour what true sympathy means."

The Times says: "There is but one sentiment to-day in the hearts of English-speaking people throughout the world. Their eyes are turned in keen anxiety to the sick-bed where lies the venerable sovereign who commands not merely the loyalty but the personal affection of countless millions. It needs no great medical knowledge to understand the meaning of the latest bulletin. We must admit, however, that all our hopes and fears are alike based upon very imperfect knowledge. We can only await the result and bear the painful suspense with such calmness and fortitude as we are able to summon to our aid. History affords but few examples of rulers who have won the deep personal affection and regard enjoyed by our beloved Queen. Even among those not of our blood or speech, even among those who have little that is kind to say of the British people, there are unstinted praise and warm regard for the British Queen. We were more like her, were our official and individual relations with foreigners carried on with more of her catholic urbanity and graciousness, who knows but that we, too, would win something of the kindly regard testified to-day in every foreign capital."

Referring to the presence of the Kaiser, the Times says: "His presence is Germany's homage to those very human feelings and sympathies so uniformly displayed by the Queen. As such it will be understood here and be all the more honored and appreciated because it involves a certain lofty disregard of mere politics. As such we do not doubt it will be understood in all other countries and it will be watched with respectful sympathy." Similar testimony to Emperor William's touching action finds place in almost all the editorials.

RESPECTED BY ALL.

The Standard says: "If the Queen were aware of the German Emperor's arrival the circumstance could hardly fail to bring some satisfaction to her mind. It is a consolation, in this hour of national distress, to listen to the universal chorus of respectful esteem which her Majesty's illness has evoked abroad. In the United States the progress of the patient has been watched as anxiously as in London, and the bitterest critics of England have only words of respect for England's Queen."

The Morning Post says: "Out of the most reverent and profound respect for our sovereign we must stand silent for the sorrow which holds us. The love and admiration of her subjects are, unhappily, of no avail. Nothing in these dark days,

when sorrow is heavy on us, will have so sweet an effect on the minds of the Queen's subjects throughout the world as the arrival of Emperor William."

The Daily Telegraph says: "A precious and beloved existence hovers at last upon the brink of the great mystery. A life of lives is drooping toward the valley of the shadow, and the empire awaits in its silence and its sorrow. But beyond the empire are the unexampled sympathy, concern and wonderful homage of mankind. Emperor William, above all, has expressed this wonderful feeling, not in word, but in act, with a truth and fervor of natural affection which England will never forget. It is one of the saddest circumstances of the hour that Emperor Frederick is not able to be present. Therefore Emperor William's presence is doubly dutiful and at Osborne House it will be doubly dear."

Proceeding to refer in detail to the sympathy displayed in all parts of the globe, the Daily Telegraph says: "For the American people the character and domestic example of the Queen have been a consecration of the Anglo-Saxon ideal. They have been regarded as hardly less the possession of the United States than of ourselves, and they have gone far to restore the moral unity of the race and to heal the worst effects of its political separation."

Shock to Irishmen.

DUBLIN, Jan. 21.—A deep and very painful sensation followed the receipt of the alarming news from Osborne House. The newspapers yesterday published frequent editions and their offices were besieged all day by anxious inquirers. The shock to the Irish people was all the greater because Queen Victoria, on her visit to Ireland last April, gave many instances of surprising vitality, and she was understood to have been greatly benefited by the tour. The city wore an unwonted aspect of gloom, the streets being swept with continued gusts of rain and wind. The Nationalists have been generous in their expressions of sympathy and the Nationalist press, on the whole, is respectfully silent. Only the Dublin Evening Telegraph offers an exception, by making the Queen's illness the text of an attack upon the South African policy of the British government.

Duke of Cambridge at Paris.

PARIS, Jan. 20.—The Duke of Cambridge, who arrived here last evening on his way to the Riviera, received a telegram asking him to return at once. He was preparing to start when another dispatch reached him this evening of a more favorable character and he decided to wait further advice before returning to England. When seen at the Hotel Bristol by the correspondent of the Associated Press his demeanor intimated that he thought the outlook was more hopeful.

Pope Leo's Message.

ROME, Jan. 21.—The Pope yesterday telegraphed Cardinal Vaughan in London, to express to the British royal family the feeling of sorrow which all Christendom shared with England regarding the illness of Queen Victoria, adding: "The liberal reign of the Queen, which has permitted the Catholic Church still to increase in the United Kingdom will leave an indelible trace upon all Christian hearts."

MRS. SEWALL MET THE QUEEN.

Victoria Received the International Council of Women in 1899.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall was seen at her residence on North Pennsylvania street yesterday afternoon by a Journal reporter who asked what her impression of Queen Victoria was when she met her at the time the Queen received the Council of Women. She said: "When the Council of Women was received by Queen Victoria she looked happy and contented. She was a very comfortable-looking woman and was certainly in vigorous health at that time. About her face there was one thing which we all remarked about and that was the absence of the frown which is always in her pictures. She had a very pleasing countenance. Her pictures with this exception are very good likenesses."

"It was on July 6, 1899, when she received us at Windsor Castle. The Queen was very gracious in her reception, although extremely dignified. That was the first body of women she had ever received with the exception of those who were engaged in nursing. The general impression that we all had when we were in her presence was that she was certainly a queen in every sense of the word. I can hardly say that she was intellectual-looking, although she was quite an accomplished scholar, artist and sculptress. But she made you feel that she was made to rule by her general bearing and dignity. Queen Victoria's great strength of character is the most notable expression her features indicated. Although small in stature she did not appear as small as she is."

"Queen Victoria was very conservative in all of her views. She was opposed to women's progressive organizations in general. It surprised many of the people who were with us when she was in England. It is the only thing entering the medical colleges of England. "One cannot overestimate her character in the direction of a domestic woman. With all of her state affairs she never lost sight of her family. She did not believe in divorces and the influence of her character has given an entirely new tone to court life in England. Her subjects appreciate this fact and to talk to Englishmen is to know that they honor her. It is the dominating quality of Queen Victoria to love her domestic life. Through all of her life she has always done her duty. This Transvaal war has done much to break down her health. She has suffered more than many people imagine. The Queen looked forward to ending her reign in peace, but she was compelled to accept the views of her statesmen. There is no doubt that the ties between subject and sovereign were unusually strong in her case."

Churchill May Return Home.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 20.—Winston Spencer Churchill, English war correspondent and lecturer, who has been in Minneapolis for the past few days, is greatly concerned over the reports of the Queen's failing health. "In the event of the Queen's demise," he said, "the natural result would be the dissolving of Parliament. Whether this is done in accordance with a statute or is a matter of precedent I cannot say. However, those in Great Britain who know what this would mean I am sure would not desire such a thing. There is absolutely no question but what the Conservatives would again be in power if another general election were ordered, but knowing the facts as I do I will say that in my opinion Parliament will not be dissolved. Whatever comes, I know that the continued policy of the government is assured."

Mr. Churchill left at 7:30 o'clock this evening for Winnipeg. If the Queen dies he will return to England at once.

READY TO BECOME KING

Prince of Wales in London Sunday Awaiting News That Will Make Him Sovereign.

Returned from Cowes Yesterday to Receive Emperor William, and Slept in Marlborough House Within Reach of the Cabinet.

TOO ILL TO OBEY A LATE SUMMONS

Daily Routine of His Royal Highness, His Likes and Dislikes, as Told by Himself.

Shooting His Favorite Recreation—Brief Sketch of the Man Who Will Soon Be Known as Edward VII and Rule Great Britain.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—The Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, slept in Marlborough House last night, within reach of the officials whose business it is to attend to the formalities incident to a change of rulers. The fact that the prince returned from Cowes at 4 o'clock last evening led many people to suppose that the Queen's condition was not critical, but a summons from Osborne House, requesting the prince to return to Cowes, dispelled all favorable hopes. The prince met the Emperor of Germany at the railway station here and both will go to the Isle of Wight this morning, if the former is able. The prince would have obeyed the summons last night, but he was not well. The fact that he was so seriously indisposed as to be unable to go to the bedside of his stricken mother has given rise to another grave portent. Apprehensions, however, are not warranted, for the prince has a strong constitution. He was so worried, tired and exhausted last evening that he could not respond immediately to the summons from Osborne House. The most he could do was to promise that he would leave London at 8 o'clock this morning, if possible.

When the Prince of Wales arrived at Victoria Station, London, at 4 o'clock, with Sir Francis Knollys attending, several hundred people were there to greet him. But there was no demonstration beyond a respectful raising of hats. The Earl of Clarendon and the Earl of Pembroke received the prince. When they inquired regarding the Queen's condition he replied: "You see they have let me come away."

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRINCE.

First Time His Royal Highness Has Talked for Publication.

Special Correspondence Associated Press. LONDON, Friday, Jan. 11.—Following is the substance of an interview with the Prince of Wales which is to appear shortly in a London magazine. There is every reason to believe it is perfectly genuine, and it is understood to be the first interview in which his Royal Highness has been directly quoted:

A correspondent who had been privileged to meet the Prince of Wales on more than one occasion had an interview with England's future King, at Marlborough House, his Royal Highness' London residence, some time ago. The prince talked with great frankness concerning himself and his views on various subjects. If any one ever deserved the appellation of "a busy man," the prince does, and there are few hardy merchants or business men who work harder than he does, and even the London public has no idea of the quantity of work he gets through in the course of a day. It is only by following a most methodical arrangement that he is able to do so much as he does in the time. As a matter of fact, all his engagements are made weeks and sometimes months ahead, and every hour, almost every minute, is mapped out for him.

When the correspondent was ushered into his study at Marlborough House the prince was seated at an old-fashioned pedestal writing desk, the face of the one used by his father, the late prince consort, which was piled high with papers and documents of all descriptions. He wore a black evening coat and vest, dark gray trousers, square-fronted collar, with a white-spotted bow tie and patent-leather shoes, and in his fingers he held the inevitable cigar. His greeting was kind in the extreme. It was merely like an elderly business man smiling a kindly welcome to some young and daring intruder.

"Well, what do you want me to say?" was his Royal Highness' query as soon as the preliminary greeting was over. The correspondent launched forth his questions, beginning with inquiries about the numerous public dinners which the prince attended, and alluding to the published statement that the prince held the record for obtaining the largest sum of money ever collected at one banquet.

"Yes, that's quite correct. I certainly hold the record in that respect," said the prince. "And presiding at dinners, etc., for the benefit of charities, especially Masonic ones, is almost a pleasure to me. The only part which I do not like about the proceedings is if the dinner drags itself out to a considerable length. That I do not like, and when dining in private at home the meal seldom lasts more than an hour."

"I have read many times in reports of dinners, etc., at which your Royal Highness has been present," said the correspondent, "that you were continually smiling during the proceedings and seem to be enjoying yourself very much."

"Yes," replied the prince, a shade of weariness creeping into his eyes, "that is where I act. If only you know how terribly bored I am by the inordinate length of some of these dinners and the speeches and how I am all the time longing to get away, you would be really sorry for me. But, there I must not say too much on that subject."

"With regard to horse racing and betting, your royal highness?"

"I think racing is the finest sport in the world, and I only regret that it should be harmed by the amount of betting which goes on. Personally, I am strongly adverse to the practice and I always use what influence I possess to discountenance it amongst my personal friends, especially when it is made a regular practice of and the stakes are large."

"There are many people who think that your royal highness has a very easy life of it, and that the hardest duties which you have to perform are attending state functions."

"Now, here is some information for you," said the prince. "Do you know that I myself see every letter which is addressed to me and in the majority of instances dictate the reply? When the mail arrives in the morning it is opened by my secretary's staff and sorted into three groups—letters from personal friends and relatives, those bearing on state affairs, and, thirdly, begging letters and petitions—and I make up my business to make myself aware of the contents of each. This of itself is no light task, when you take into consideration the fact that each morning's mail consists of some hundreds of letters. So, that those who say mine is an idle life malign me."

Asked his opinion on South African affairs, he smilingly shook his head and refused to be drawn out; but he said that he should always remember with the deepest affection and regard the heroic conduct of the troops in the campaign.

"One more question," said the correspondent. "What is your royal highness' favorite recreation?"

"Shooting," he replied unhesitatingly. "There is nothing I like better than a good day's hunt. It seems the only thing which takes me out of myself and makes me forget the cares and responsibilities of my position."

Brief Sketch of the Life of the Future King of Great Britain.

Albert Edward, known for more than half a century as the Prince of Wales, and now about to be summoned to the throne of the mightiest empire in all history, over which he will reign as Edward VII, was born on Nov. 9, 1861. The second child and the eldest son of Queen Victoria, his advent into the world was greeted with great rejoicing. As the first child of the royal couple (now the Empress dowager of Germany) had proved to be a girl, the British nation was naturally anxious that the second should be a boy. When the Queen's confinement was expected Prince Albert sent his couriers in hot haste from Buckingham Palace to the various dignitaries of church and state, whose presence at the expected birth of an heir is demanded by royal etiquette. They gathered together in the ante-room close by the Queen's bed chamber. Among them were archbishops and bishops, arrayed in silk shawl hats and gorgeous aprons, members of the Cabinet, headed by the prime minister, nurses and doctors by the score. For four hours this motley assemblage awaited the event. Their patience was rewarded. When it was announced that the boy and wishes of a nation had been fulfilled, and that a boy had been born, there was universal gratulation. Prelates and statesmen embraced one another with uncontrolled effusiveness. Cannons from the grounds without thundered the news to all the surrounding districts. Thousands